

VILLAGE OF EAST HILL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PUBLIC HEARING

May 23, 2012

8:00 p.m.

PRESENT:           MICHAEL KOBLLENZ, MAYOR  
                      EMANUEL ZUCKERMAN, DEPUTY MAYOR  
                      GARY LEVENTHAL, TRUSTEE  
                      PETER ZUCKERMAN, TRUSTEE  
                      CLARA POMERANTZ, TRUSTEE

VILLAGE ATTORNEY:       WILLIAM BURTON, ESQ.

Reported by:  
Christa Flash, R.P.R.

1                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: Motion to open the public  
2 hearing?

3                   TRUSTEE LEVENTHAL: So moved.

4                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: All in favor?

5                   (Whereupon, all Board members answered in  
6 the affirmative.)

7                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: The first item is we have  
8 kept open the tree statute for comments from  
9 residents. We got a number of comments which are  
10 going to be reviewed with the entire record, and  
11 tonight I would move to close the hearing on that, on  
12 the tree statute, so that we can evaluate the  
13 comments and come up with suggestions.

14                   May I have a motion?

15                   DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: So moved.

16                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: All in favor?

17                   (Whereupon, all Board members answered in  
18 the affirmative.)

19                   \*   \*   \*   \*

20                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: Okay. Motion to open the  
21 public hearing to discuss floor area ratios,  
22 construction, and issues relating to the ARB as well  
23 as current construction going on in the village.

24                   TRUSTEE P. ZUCKERMAN: So moved.

25                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: All in favor?

1                   (Whereupon, all Board members answered in  
2                   the affirmative.)

3                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: The public hearing is open.  
4                   The way this will operate is that if you wish to  
5                   speak, you will identify yourself, your address, your  
6                   name on the record, and you can address those  
7                   particular issues.

8                   Who wants to go first?

9                   Nobody?

10                  Oh, okay. Sir?

11                  You have to identify yourself.

12                  MR. SCHEINBAUM: Joel Scheinbaum, 260 Revere  
13                  Road.

14                  MAYOR KOBLENZ: Thank you.

15                  MR. SCHEINBAUM: I would like to know why  
16                  the decisions of the Architectural Review Board and  
17                  the Zoning Board are not put on the web. I went to  
18                  the web this week. The latest addition is for  
19                  permission to reconstruct the firehouse. That  
20                  decision was made in 2011. I think we can be more  
21                  current than that.

22                  MAYOR KOBLENZ: We agree. That's being  
23                  taken care of.

24                  MR. SCHEINBAUM: Thank you.

25                  MAYOR KOBLENZ: It has been addressed with

1 village counsel as well as counsel for the zoning  
2 Board and the ARB. So they're in the process of  
3 doing the work to get it out.

4 MR. SCHEINBAUM: Will it be all on the web?

5 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Yes. I just can't tell you  
6 exactly when.

7 MR. BURTON: Since the time we received your  
8 valid suggestion --

9 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: We got your e-mail.

10 MR. BURTON: -- we did respond to you and we  
11 did take care of it today.

12 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: It's a process, but it's  
13 being done.

14 MR. SCHEINBAUM: Okay.

15 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Okay. Next?

16 Stand up and identify yourself.

17 MR. BRUMMEL: Richard Brummel. I live at 15  
18 Laurel Lane in East Hills.

19 Can I stand over there?

20 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Stand anywhere you want.

21 MR. BRUMMEL: Thanks a lot.

22 I have a prepared statement. Shall I give  
23 it to the transcriptionist?

24 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: You should give it to us and  
25 then to --

1 MR. BURTON: Do you have one statement?

2 MR. BRUMMEL: Yes.

3 MR. BURTON: Give it to her.

4 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: There's only one copy?

5 MR. BRUMMEL: Unfortunately, yes.

6 There are a couple of things I'll put on the  
7 record afterwards.

8 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Wait a minute. Is that your  
9 statement that's going on the record?

10 MR. BRUMMEL: Yes.

11 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Okay. I think you should  
12 read the statement into the record.

13 MR. BRUMMEL: I'm going to.

14 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Okay. Fine.

15 MR. BRUMMEL: I also have a few papers that  
16 I'm also going to submit.

17 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: That's fine.

18 MR. BRUMMEL: This meeting was proposed in  
19 January or February and passed by the Board to  
20 consider a moratorium on construction and tree  
21 removals, asked for by residents in Norgate, to  
22 prevent the destruction at 37 Laurel Lane. Now that  
23 property has been demolished and two huge trees are  
24 gone. The developer has cut a hole from lot line to  
25 lot line, and now a neighbor's 75-foot tree has been

1 so damaged it's going to be removed by the builder on  
2 the neighboring property. So much for the moratorium  
3 we asked for.

4 You trustees now have a petition I gathered  
5 over two weekends that covers excess tree removals  
6 and overbuilding. About seven dozen signatures I  
7 gathered over four weekend days going door to door  
8 throughout the village. I'll give you a copy of that  
9 tonight to be part of this record, as well.

10 After the tree hearing last month it seemed  
11 like no one cared. There was a very small turnout.  
12 Now, based on the petition, you know differently.  
13 8:00 p.m meetings are not a way to gauge community  
14 concern.

15 I have since learned that this is no new  
16 issue. You passed a law in 2005 that promised to fix  
17 this issue, rampant demolition and overdevelopment.  
18 It obviously did not work, and you know that.

19 I just want to quickly quote from that law.  
20 That law said -- this is from 2005 -- the recent  
21 trend of tearing down existing homes and replacing  
22 them with expansive houses or building extremely  
23 large additions to existing houses threatens the  
24 appearance, integrity, health, safety, welfare and  
25 quality of life of the residents of East Hills.

1 That's in the Village Code. It's Section 271-225.  
2 The recent trend as of February 2005.

3 Now, you passed a law in 2005 that promised  
4 to fix this issue, rampant demolition and  
5 overdevelopment. It obviously did not work and you  
6 know that.

7 I have reviewed building codes in Great Neck  
8 Estates, Munsey Park, Mamaroneck, and a few other  
9 places in here. There is not much difference that I  
10 could see as a layman. This tells me that developers  
11 are probably rampaging everywhere, which is no  
12 surprise.

13 MAYOR KOBLENZ: would you just slow down a  
14 little, please?

15 TRUSTEE LEVENTHAL: Slow down a little bit.  
16 You're driving her nuts.

17 MR. BRUMMEL: I'm sorry.

18 So that change needs to come from within,  
19 within our Championship Community. On Laurel Lane we  
20 saw all the backyards disappear on new building.  
21 Obviously 20 or 30 feet of backyard is not  
22 significant with the size of the houses that are  
23 being built. The original builder in Norgate and  
24 possibly other areas knew that when they built the  
25 large yards that I grew up in, sixty feet about, and

1 they need to be preserved as much as possible.

2 These building issues cut across income  
3 levels in East Hills and the attitude of the  
4 residents does, as well. All segments of the  
5 community, Norgate, Strathmore, Fairfield Park,  
6 Country Estates, Nob Hill, Lakeville Estates, et  
7 cetera, everywhere people are unhappy about the  
8 overbuilding, the lack of setbacks and the  
9 devastation of our tree canopy that results from the  
10 building.

11 The Architectural Review Board is not doing  
12 the job it was intended to do. It is not preserving  
13 the neighborhood's character, it's not protecting  
14 neighbors from intrusion and offensive bulk, and it's  
15 not preventing trees from being destroyed.

16 When I went to a professional, independent  
17 architect with the Laurel Lane designs of 37 Laurel,  
18 he wrote an extensive critique of the design based on  
19 East Hills Code from blank walls to inappropriate  
20 cosmetic features to failure to respect the natural  
21 contours of the lot, all parts of the East Hills  
22 Code, but the ARB would not even hold a proper  
23 publically-announced hearing to review that  
24 information. Incidentally, a judge found there was  
25 sufficient basis to grant an injunction, which, as



1 you know, I then failed to enforce due to my own lack  
2 of nerve at that point.

3 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: The record speaks for  
4 itself.

5 Keep going.

6 MR. BRUMMEL: Thank you, Mayor.

7 I'll also quote from -- I won't make that  
8 mistake ever again. Believe me.

9 I'll also quote from the architect's report.  
10 "For the following reasons and observations outlined  
11 below, I believe the subject proposal is out of  
12 character and will have negative adverse impacts on  
13 the existing neighborhood, as defined in the East  
14 Hills ARB Code."

15 I'll just quote it. "The right side and the  
16 left side of the house have continuous expanses of  
17 unrelieved wall surfaces, lacking fenestration or --"

18 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Slow down.

19 MR. BRUMMEL: "The right side and the left  
20 side of the house have continuous expanses of  
21 unrelieved wall surfaces, lacking fenestration or  
22 detail. The proposed 'Gambrel' roof introduces a new  
23 roof style which does not promote the existing  
24 character, appearance and aesthetics of the adjacent  
25 'Colonial' homes. The overall roof ridge height

1 appears prominent and out of character with the  
2 neighboring houses due to the two broad frontal  
3 facing Gambrel dormers."

4 This is a very experienced architect  
5 speaking. He's critiquing the ARB. I think this is  
6 the first time an architect, an independent  
7 architect, has ever looked at their work and  
8 evaluated it by independent judgment who has no  
9 vested interest.

10 I'll quote one more.

11 "The proposed Doric columned porch  
12 introduces a 'Classical' style which is not the  
13 predominant existing style of the neighborhood. The  
14 porch projects into the front yard up to the maximum  
15 allowable front setback of 30 feet, while the  
16 original home has a setback of 38 feet with no porch.  
17 For these reasons the front of the proposed house  
18 will have negative visual impacts on the pre-existing  
19 street line."

20 And he concludes in the second page, "As an  
21 architect having presented proposed projects before  
22 34 different Architectural Review Committees in the  
23 Tri-State area in the past 18 years, and having  
24 served on the ARC Board of Incorporated Village of  
25 Munsey Park for seven years, I am familiar with the

1 needs, goals and aspirations of a community committed  
2 to protecting the character of their neighborhood by  
3 seeking the balance and harmony of various  
4 architectural styles."

5 "In my professional opinion -- " and then he  
6 says, obviously, this did not work. I'll submit that  
7 into the record, as well.

8 So that's the ARB. That's the professional  
9 critique of the ARB.

10 I'll continue my statement.

11 But the Zoning Board of Appeals is also  
12 ineffective to protect neighborhoods. When the  
13 firehouse issue was up, they did not require any  
14 studies. They did not require a state environmental  
15 review. They did not protect the residential  
16 character, and it was done in the middle of the night  
17 until I notified neighbors and the newspapers about  
18 what was going on.

19 The common denominator in all of this is  
20 you, the Board. You, the village leaders, have not  
21 been requiring better performance or showing concern  
22 about what has been going on despite obvious and  
23 freely-expressed concern by many neighbors and  
24 residents. All I had to do was ring people's  
25 doorbells to hear the frustration and

1 dissatisfaction. I, a stranger in East Hills, you  
2 surely must have known that these issues were not  
3 fixed.

4 In fact, I met with Mayor Koblenz in 2009  
5 about a rebuilt neighboring house next to my own  
6 which towers and looms over the property line where  
7 it used to be, the original house, a demure,  
8 harmonious, modest presence for 45 years, even with  
9 the additional family room in the '70s or so. The  
10 mayor dismissed all my complaints, as I'm sure he has  
11 done with others and as he did with the firehouse.

12 A vast number of people in East Hills  
13 apparently do not trust this village government.

14 MR. BURTON: Excuse me.

15 MAYOR KOBLENZ: I have had it.

16 MR. BURTON: You're out of order. If you're  
17 going to castigate the Board, if you're going to say  
18 something about the Board, this is about zoning. If  
19 you want to give your opinions about zoning, that's  
20 fine, but you can't -- you can't try to denigrate  
21 this Board.

22 MR. BRUMMEL: The Board is the root of the  
23 problems here.

24 MR. BURTON: I don't care. You talk about a  
25 future, you talk about change, tell them what you

1 want. Don't criticize.

2 MR. BRUMMEL: You're not allowed to sanction  
3 someone during a public hearing.

4 MR. BURTON: When you start stalking  
5 about --

6 MR. BRUMMEL: I'm talking about facts that  
7 affect the performance in this village, and these are  
8 relevant to the issue. Okay? I'm asking the Board  
9 to do a better job of its --

10 MAYOR KOBLENZ: This Board has done an  
11 excellent job, and I hope that you don't need the  
12 ambulance or the firehouse for your family, for your  
13 mother or for yourself. So I don't want to hear any  
14 more of your criticism about the firehouse and things  
15 that aren't relevant. If you have anything  
16 constructive to say, say it.

17 We're going to tape this and Hilda here is  
18 going to tape it? Be my guest. We stand on our  
19 record. You got a few signatures from people? I got  
20 a lot of e-mails that are contrary to what you have  
21 said.

22 MS. GOLDBERG: You're not even a resident.

23 MAYOR KOBLENZ: You don't even live here.  
24 Okay? So it's enough already.

25 MS. GOLDBERG: People need to know you're

1 not a resident.

2 MR. BRUMMEL: I do live here.

3 MS. GOLDBERG: No, you don't. Do you pay  
4 taxes? Is your name on a deed? All you're doing is  
5 causing problems for this neighborhood.

6 MAYOR KOBLENZ: It's enough.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you pay taxes here?

8 MR. BRUMMEL: I'm not answering that  
9 question.

10 MAYOR KOBLENZ: If you don't have anything  
11 constructive to say -- if you have something  
12 constructive to say about the ARB, we'll listen to  
13 it. So far you've said nothing constructive. If you  
14 have something constructive about floor area  
15 ratios --

16 MR. BRUMMEL: You're not allowed to censor  
17 comments during the course of a public hearing.

18 MAYOR KOBLENZ: You can tell me whatever you  
19 want.

20 MR. BRUMMEL: This is being transcribed, and  
21 you will answer for it --

22 MAYOR KOBLENZ: I'll answer for it?

23 MR. BRUMMEL: -- and the slander, as well.

24 MAYOR KOBLENZ: You know what? Keep  
25 talking. I don't have to listen to your crap.

1 (Whereupon, Mayor Koblenz stepped down from  
2 the dais.)

3 (Applause.)

4 (Whereupon, a cross-discussion between the  
5 audience was held off the record.)

6 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: How much more do  
7 you have?

8 MR. BRUMMEL: I have a few more comments and  
9 suggestions.

10 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: You've got two  
11 minutes. You're on the clock.

12 MR. BRUMMEL: A vast number of people in  
13 this community do not trust this village government,  
14 and they do not look up to it because of issues such  
15 as overbuilding.

16 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: Okay. You cannot  
17 attack the government.

18 MR. BURTON: You can't state for the people.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: You're offering  
20 comments that are incorrect and inaccurate.

21 MR. BRUMMEL: Well, that's my opinion.  
22 That's why we have freedom in this country and the  
23 First Amendment. I'm speaking to the record about  
24 this issue of overbuilding and the lack of  
25 responsibility that you are taking.

1           DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: well, then address  
2 it towards the issue of overbuilding. Address it  
3 towards the issue, not towards the Board or anybody  
4 else.

5           MR. BRUMMEL: But the Board is the source of  
6 these problems.

7           DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: The Board is not  
8 the source of these problems.

9           MR. BRUMMEL: But who is the source? The  
10 builders? The ARB?

11          DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: Are you going to  
12 address the --

13          MR. BRUMMEL: I'm going to finish my  
14 statement.

15          DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: All right.

16          MR. BRUMMEL: We need a far better  
17 administration of the laws in this village. We  
18 should not have approved excavation plans suddenly  
19 destroying many trees and even neighboring ones.  
20 That is the result of poor administration.

21                 Your boards need to be opened up to a  
22 transparent appointment process, and new blood needs  
23 to be added to each of them. Term limits are needed.  
24 People on these boards become cliquish, ingrained,  
25 overly familiar or overly convinced of their own



1 infallibility. There are many issues that come  
2 together on this crisis in land-use policy --

3 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: All right. That's  
4 it. Your time is up.

5 MR. BRUMMEL: -- honesty, candor,  
6 accountability.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: Your time is up.

8 MR. BRUMMEL: I seriously question whether  
9 this village is up to it.

10 MR. BRUMMEL: I'd like to submit these  
11 papers.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much for  
13 representing us. We need you.

14 MR. BRUMMEL: Here you go. This is the  
15 letter from the architect. This is the petition.

16 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: Just put them down.  
17 Does anybody have any other comments or have  
18 we had enough comments?

19 Yes, sir?

20 MR. WEISS: Matthew Weiss, 105 Heather  
21 Drive.

22 So I've been to a few Zoning Board meetings  
23 and residents need to get variances for certain  
24 things they need to do, but those variances, in  
25 certain circumstances, are always given.

1 I'll give an example to the Board. If  
2 there's 100 feet of square footage you don't need a  
3 variance, but if you have less than a hundred feet on  
4 your street you need to get a variance. There are  
5 many houses that were built with less than 100 feet  
6 of frontage. When they go before the Zoning Board --  
7 excuse me. I'm talking.

8 There are many houses, like in Canterbury,  
9 in Fairfield, that don't have 100 feet of frontage,  
10 of street frontage, and they come to the Board, they  
11 pay an extra fee, they have to wait, and now they  
12 have to get a variance that is going to be given.

13 So I'm going to urge this Board to  
14 reconsider those rules, the Zoning Board, I'm sure,  
15 can tell you the others, like the size of the lot,  
16 that are routinely granted and require residents to  
17 waste their money and their time.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR ZUCKERMAN: Okay. Any other  
19 comments?

20 Yes? Hilda, can you identify yourself,  
21 please?

22 MS. YOHALEM: Sure. Hilda Yohalem, 76 Great  
23 Oaks Road, and I'm the president of the Norgate Civic  
24 Association.

25 It happens that this house, which is

1 directly behind me, is the one that was demolished,  
2 and for the past four weeks, I would say, they have  
3 been digging there. It's from morning until -- it's  
4 most of the day, then they stop, and they have  
5 mountains of dirt on one side, then they move it to  
6 the other side. This has been going on for four  
7 weeks or so, and to look at this is horrible.

8 (Whereupon, Mayor Koblenz returned to the  
9 dais.)

10 And I have trees across my back. There's a  
11 hedge there, and I'm very concerned about them. I've  
12 been told they may not be -- the roots of those may  
13 not be in danger, but there are others. There are a  
14 whole bunch of trees, and it's going to change the  
15 whole area where we live, because there's one tree --  
16 there are a couple of trees in the back here and on  
17 the side. Then there are other trees over here, and  
18 they're all in danger because they've been doing  
19 nothing but digging.

20 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Are you done?

21 MS. YOHALEM: And I don't think it's fair  
22 to -- this has never happened. As far as I know this  
23 has never happened before in such a way.

24 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Joel?

25 MR. SCHEINBAUM: I'm still Joel Scheinbaum.

1                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: I know. You haven't  
2 changed.

3                   MR. SCHEINBAUM: I've gotten a little  
4 younger, though.

5                   The suggestion that I would make is that you  
6 change some of the numbers on the zoning so that we  
7 don't wind up with houses that are so big. Beauty is  
8 in the eye of the beholder. If a house is out of  
9 proportion to the neighborhood, the Zoning Board  
10 should do something different. Preserving trees,  
11 yeah, that would be very nice, but when you break  
12 eggs, you're going to have to dig up roots and you're  
13 going to have to do things like that.

14                   The Chairman of the Architectural Board said  
15 he does it for safety. I agree. You can't just rip  
16 out the roots of a tree and expect it to survive, but  
17 the reason you're ripping out roots is because the  
18 houses are too big.

19                   MAYOR KOBLENZ: In response to your  
20 constructive comment, this Board has engaged Nelson  
21 Pope, who were involved with us a couple of years  
22 back when we did the floor area ratios and the height  
23 setbacks, to study it, and we're going to be  
24 appointing a committee to work with them to come up  
25 with recommendations.

1           Now, while some people thought that the  
2           recommendations were too liberal, you have to weigh  
3           the community and the needs of the community. If a  
4           couple is buying a house that is 70 years old and  
5           they want to move in, they have the right to knock it  
6           down and not live in a house that has 70-year-old  
7           appliances, and they have a growing family, and most  
8           of the time that I have seen this is that these young  
9           couples are buying these homes from elderly residents  
10          who are moving on and are retiring. These houses,  
11          which they're buying lots for anywhere between six to  
12          \$800,000 and then putting up nice houses, and there  
13          are a lot of nice houses, only increase the value of  
14          everyone else's home in this village.

15                 This village has to understand and the  
16          residents who are complaining, which are a minority,  
17          I might say, because I got a lot of e-mails that said  
18          some of the suggestions that came at the public  
19          hearing regarding the tree law, you know, were  
20          excessive, but we have to weigh the people's needs.  
21          All right?

22                 No one is buying a house here. Okay? You  
23          want to say you want it to stay the way it was,  
24          that's fine, but those residents who want to move  
25          aren't going to be able to sell their homes. All

1 right? And their lifetime investment is now going to  
2 be worth very little as opposed to how living next  
3 door to a house that is now valued at \$1,200,000,  
4 that house now goes for more money. All right?

5 Yes, there are some issues regarding  
6 density. There are some issues regarding size that  
7 were addressed years ago that we're going to relook  
8 at. But one thing we did do was each neighborhood  
9 has its own specialized rule. What you can build in  
10 Country Estates or in Lakeville you can't build in  
11 Norgate or Fairfield Park. That's how we balanced it  
12 out, and we're going to go back and do that again.  
13 We're going to have our committee and we have our  
14 outside engineer that is very, very qualified to do  
15 this and to work with us. Okay? So it's being  
16 addressed. Okay?

17 As far as the trees, by the way, just for  
18 the record, I just had 30 trees planted on Glen Cove  
19 Road in Harbor Hills and another 20 are going into  
20 the park. Trees grow. Okay? And we're planting  
21 trees. And the trees that are dangerous need to come  
22 down. And anybody who -- and I've got a lot of  
23 e-mails about criticism about LIPA trying to take  
24 away the dead trees or take away the branches that  
25 could destroy our power. A lot of people came back

1 and said I don't want to live in the dark like we did  
2 with Irene. If the residents in this village took  
3 care of their trees and made sure that they were  
4 properly trimmed, then we wouldn't need to have that  
5 kind of work done. It's not done.

6 I can tell you many residents will say to  
7 you I can't afford to take that tree down even though  
8 it's dead and it's going to fall over and knock down  
9 the lines. So we're doing it. Okay? We're having  
10 LIPA do it, at their expense. No village tax money  
11 is being spent. People have to understand that.

12 This Board works tirelessly to protect this  
13 village, and any indication that we have, you know,  
14 shirked our duties I take personal umbrage about.  
15 The firehouse is for the good of this neighborhood,  
16 and those ambulances and those fire trucks save  
17 lives. And anyone who thinks that, oh, well, if it's  
18 a bigger firehouse, there's more noise, they're not  
19 running to the firehouse to get on a truck and ride  
20 out in the middle of the night. They only go out if  
21 there's a call and there's an emergency.

22 So any kind of stories that went out about  
23 noise factors and everything else, the Zoning Board  
24 restricted the number of trucks that can be in that  
25 new facility. It was not OSHA compliant. It was

1 built in the '60s. It's being rebuilt. It is a  
2 great asset to this village and for the safety of our  
3 residents. Nobody is getting on a truck to ride  
4 around and make noise. They're getting on a truck to  
5 save your life, and if that's not good enough, I'm  
6 sorry. There's nothing better we can do. There was  
7 nothing done in the middle of the night. That's  
8 another thing that I listened to.

9 we've done everything proper. The ARB works  
10 tirelessly to try and get an even understanding of  
11 what the village's needs are. Not everything is  
12 perfect. I venture to say nobody in this room is  
13 perfect. Everyone makes a mistake. Everyone's  
14 judgment is different. But we try and do the best we  
15 can.

16 This park wasn't built because people said,  
17 oh, we shouldn't take a tree down and we shouldn't  
18 build this park for the residents. Okay? You know  
19 how many trees came down to build this park and the  
20 pool that you all use? Okay? Come on. And the only  
21 reason that people move into this neighborhood is  
22 because of the park that we built, and the housing  
23 values are up because of the park we built.

24 so let's take everything in its perspective  
25 before we start criticizing everything that everybody



1 does. We listen to everybody's needs. We're going  
2 forward with studying it. We had a tree hearing. We  
3 got a lot of comments, some very constructive  
4 comments. We're going to analyze it and we'll come  
5 back to the public and that's it.

6 Does anyone else have anything to say that  
7 is not --

8 (Applause.)

9 -- that has not spoken?

10 I'm not recognizing you. You did enough.

11 Yes?

12 MS. LEVY: Ramona Levy, 27 Laurel Lane.

13 Is there a way that you can't put some kind  
14 of law in effect that people who do live in the area,  
15 that they do take care of their trees?

16 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: We have a property  
17 maintenance statute. Okay? But in order to do the  
18 property maintenance statute, we would have to have a  
19 licensed arborist go house-to-house and it would cost  
20 us a fortune and then tell the person you must take  
21 the tree down.

22 Now, some people -- you know, it's a bad  
23 economy. You're going to tell somebody, hey, you  
24 have to spend \$3,000 to take down a tree? I mean,  
25 you got to be fair to people. Okay? You got to

1 understand the needs of people.

2 There is a property maintenance statute, and  
3 if we see something that's really bad, you know,  
4 we'll talk about it, but I can't see this village  
5 going to people's homes and saying you got to spend  
6 three to \$5,000 to get rid of those trees. It's just  
7 not fair, and I don't want to do things that aren't  
8 fair and that don't work for everybody.

9 MS. LEVY: The other thing I want to say is  
10 I just to want thank the ARB and the village for  
11 acting so promptly in removing this tree that was  
12 damaged during construction.

13 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: You're welcome.

14 MS. LEVY: It's happening tomorrow.

15 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Yes, it is.

16 MS. LEVY: And I also want to thank you for  
17 letting me park the extra car in the lot over here.

18 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: If you get a ticket, you  
19 know --

20 MR. BURTON: You got to pay those fines.

21 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: -- you've got to pay those  
22 fines.

23 Anyone else who hasn't spoken?

24 Janna, do you want to identify yourself?

25 MS. GOLDBERG: Janna Goldberg, 90 Oak Drive.

1 MR. BURTON: Stand up, Janna.

2 MS. GOLDBERG: . why do I have to stand up?  
3 We all know what I look like.

4 Could we address sport courts in backyards  
5 and put that into consideration, about the size of  
6 our lots, depending on what size sport court somebody  
7 is allowed to have in their backyard, since we've had  
8 some issues recently that we had to address?

9 MR. BURTON: This is Kathy Eisner  
10 (phonetic). She's from Nelson Pope.

11 MS. GOLDBERG: Oh. Hi, Kathy. I didn't  
12 know who you were.

13 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: well, we were keeping her a  
14 secret. She's taking notes and observing all the  
15 things that are --

16 MS. GOLDBERG: All the psycho people.

17 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Anything else?

18 MS. GOLDBERG: That was one thing.

19 Another thing I just want to address, I'm  
20 here with fellow ARB members, and I have to tell you  
21 that we do this as a volunteer position. We don't  
22 get paid. We do this because we love this community,  
23 and I cannot believe that there are people out there  
24 that only have hatred and meanness to say about  
25 people that volunteer their time. I don't see those

1 same people volunteering their time to do the things  
2 that we do.

3 So, you know, volunteer, do these jobs, and  
4 then you have something to say. Don't say something  
5 when you don't know what is actually going on.  
6 Because you know what? I have other things going on  
7 in my life, too. I get five, six, eight, ten e-mails  
8 a day until the next ARB meeting, especially, when it  
9 came to the tree at 37 Laurel. Okay? I had to deal  
10 with that issue all day yesterday. And then we had  
11 to make sure that it was an emergency and that  
12 Mrs. Levy would not have to worry, that she could go  
13 to sleep at night and the tree wouldn't fall on her  
14 house.

15 So people need to know the facts before they  
16 go and start screaming at a Board meeting until they  
17 know what's going on, because, in all honesty, I'm  
18 sick and tired of seeing the ARB every week in the  
19 Roslyn News saying things about us that are totally  
20 not true. So, you know what? Know what you're  
21 talking about.

22 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Thank you.

23 Motion to close the hearing?

24 Oh, I'm sorry. You'd like to speak? Your  
25 name?

1 MS. YOUNG: My name is Elaine Young. I live  
2 at 1 High Hollow Road.

3 First I want to thank you for taking down  
4 the trees with LIPA. It was a great help.

5 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: You're welcome.

6 MS. YOUNG: I'm a consultant for Ambert  
7 Energy. We're an escrow energy company, and I was  
8 wondering who I might speak to who would be in charge  
9 of helping the village and the residents save money  
10 on their gas bills?

11 MR. BURTON: We are doing that.

12 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: We are doing that.

13 MS. YOUNG: Who would I speak to, though?

14 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: We're off the record.

15 (Whereupon, a discussion was held off the  
16 record.)

17 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: Motion to close the hearing?

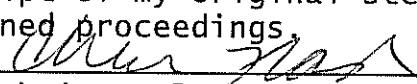
18 TRUSTEE P. ZUCKERMAN: So moved.

19 MAYOR KOBLLENZ: All in favor?

20 (Whereupon, all Board members answered in  
21 the affirmative.)

22 \* C E R T I F I C A T I O N \*

23 The foregoing is certified to be a true and  
24 accurate transcript of my original stenographic notes for  
the above-mentioned proceedings.

25   
Christa Flash, Official Court Reporter